French Say Lee Quoted German Views, Not Theirs

Writer Declares British Admiralty Officer, Reading From Castex Article on Submarines, Overlooked Qualifying Phrases

By Maurice Leon

COMMANDER CAETEX, of the French navy, wrote an article which appeared in the "French Naval Review" of January, 1920, entitled "Synthesis of Submarine Warfare—Characteristics of the German Submarine Warfare." In that article it is stated:

"For our enemies submarines represented indeed, or at least they thought so, the new engine, the technical and material upsetting, which rendered obsolete the old teachings. . . . The undisclosed tool, last creation of the human mind, must sweep away not alone ancient methods but also ancient principles . . . Cruiser warfare exclusively revealed itself powerless in the days of sailing vessels, it failed during the epoch of surface motor ships very well, but this will not be so if the submarines are brought into play. With these everything changes. New times have arrived. The submarine is future, is salvation (page 23).

"The Germans reason thus. A new cruiser warfare very easy to carry on, having nothing in common with the old, appears as easily realizable. The old theories fall to pieces before the new engine. Principles themselves lose their inviolable character and are impaired. What was formerly destined to failure becomes child play, thanks to the submarines. After some centuries of waiting, thanks to the ingenuity of men, the instrument is held at last, the system, the device, to sap it all, which will overthrow, this time finally, the English naval power" (page 24).

Lord Lee's Quotations Omitted Important Words

As shown by the communique published in the press of December 31, 1921, this statement by a French officer of the German conception of the real value of the submarine was dealt with by Lord Lee of Fareham, First Lord of the British Admiralty, at the Washington arms conference on December 30, 1921, in the following manner:

Taking out of its context the last sentence of the paragraph on page 24 he quoted it as an expression of Commander Castex's own opinion without mentioning the introductory words "The Germans reason thus," nor the words "For our enemies the submarines represented indeed, or at least they thought so," which constitute the introduction of a similar paragraph on the previous page, and he also omitted all reference to the subtitle "Characteristics of German Submarine Warfare."

Lord Lee then made the following remarks:

"I have quoted this because, as I say, they are the utterances of a responsible member of the French naval staff who at the time of writing was in a high position and was the actual head of a bureau. These things are known to our naval staff, of course; indeed, they were published to the world under the authority of the French naval staff.

"Now, this officer, who is appointed principal lecturer to the senior officers' course, will, no doubt, unless a change of policy takes place, be pouring what we regard as this infamy and this poison into the ears of the serving officers of the French navy.

"That is the justification for what I can only describe as the apprehensions and even the bitterness that we must feel in the thought that under any conceivable circumstances our present allies, our late comrades in arms, in the greatest war the world (as ever known, should contemplate the possibility of warfare of that kind."

One month later, on January 31, 1922, Lord Lee's statements being unretracted, the French Ambassador addressed the arms conference and, according to the official communiqué, stated:

"The quotation given by Lord Lee began by three words indispensable for the understanding thereof, and they were 'This is the way the Germans are reasoning.' What he was citing was the point of view of the Germans, not the point of view of the French. The mistake is the more difficult to understand that not once but twice Commander Castex had taken the same precaution, saying at the preceding page: 'For our enemies these ships did represent, or at least they thought so, the new engine, the technical and material upsetting that was going to make every old teaching obsolete.'

"More than that, the very title of the article leaves no doubts as to its purpose. For its complete form, which had not been quoted, reads: 'Synthesis of Submarine Worfare—Characteristics of the German Submarine Warfare.' If, therefore, one wants, an account of these lines of Commander Castex, to be anxious about something it must be about the German enemies and not the French friends of Great Britain.

"Third—Captain Castex has been retorted as approving of the infamous use of submarines German fashion. I am at a loss to understand how this may have been stated, since in the French the officer clearly and peremptorily expressed himself to the reverse. After having said that the fact they used the submarines could not be blamed as such on the Germans, he adds: 'The only reproach that can be set up against them is to have too frequently and in too many particular cases smeared their flag by conducting submarine warfare with barbarity and with an aggravation of odious acts. A useless, besides, and stupid cruelty, for it served in no way the purposes of the war and because in the end it turned against their own interest by raising against them the unanimous condemnation of the conscience of the civilized people of the world.'

"Am I not entitled to maintain that Commander Castex was not only not approving of these German ways and means, but expressly condemned them?

"Fourth—It has also been said that Commander Castex was probably teaching the theories thus attributed to him in the French naval schools; and it has been said in such unkind and cruel words that my heart is still bleeding at the thought of them. These words were as follows: 'Now this officer, who is appointed principal lecturer ot the senior officers' course, will, no doubt, unless a change of policy takes place, be pouring what we regard as this infamy and this poison into the ears of the serving officers of the French navy.'

"The answer to this is twofold and simple. There is no need for us to change our policy. Captain Castex cannot teach what has been called that infamy; first, because he detests it; second, because his course of lecturing has nothing to do with submarines; the subject of his lessons is the organization of the General Staff."

In answer to this exposition of the facts by Ambassador Jusserand, Lord Lee still did not retract, but stated in substance that he was unprepared, and that the meaning of Commander Castex's article was a matter of opinion. He also took refuge behind the repudiation which Admiral de Bon, of the French delegation, made of the views attributed by Lord Lee to Commander Castex, a repudiation which came immediately after Lord Lee had launched his sensation and at a time when Admiral de Bon was warranted, as was the public in general, in believing that Lord Lee, as head of the British Admiralty and one of the British delegates to the conference, would be incapable of making unfair and unfounded statements regarding the matter which he had thus brought up without the least warning, based upon an article which had appeared two years before.

Fortunately, British sense of honor and fair play found a worthy upholder in the editor of "The London Times," who, in a statement cabled to this country and published on February 6, showed that Lord Lee had misstated the facts and suggested that the incident required an apology to Commander Castex and to the French Admiralty.

Meanwhile the fact remains that the sensational misstatements made by Lord Lee on December 30, which, it seems, were preceded by similar misstatements in the German press concerning the article of Commander Castex, swept this country from end to end and created for a while a veritable uproar of anti-French feeling; while Ambassador Jusserand's exposition of the truth has not received equal circulation by far, and "The London Times" editor's statement, which has coincided with that of the French Ambassador, has received comparatively limited publicity. The harm done by Lord Lee remains in large measure not undone. It was done through the press, and only through the press can it be undone.

Anglo-French discord, aired in this country, inures to the benefit of the enemies of both England and France, who are also our enemies. Lord Lee's amazing performance has hurt France temporarily, but will not in the long run, for truth will prevail. The light of truth must be turned on it lest such an incident be repeated. It savors of Bismarck and the Ems telegram. Lord Lee has misstated the facts, and has not retracted.

Gen. Dawes, Director of the Budget, Tells How He Has Applied Business Principles to Government

Army Efficiency Expert Sums Up His System of Economy in Just One Word: Co-ordination

By John Gleason O'Brien

"THERE is no reason why, because the government of the United States does the largest business in the world, it should be the worst conducted." This is the theory on which Charles G. Dawes as Director of the Budget has been working ever since last June in an effort to save the government millions of dollars. How well he has succeeded is demonstrated by reports made public recently showing a saving of more than $100,000,000.

Dawes personally is well known throughout the country. As a brigadier general on Pershing's staff he coordinated the American and Allied services of supply with far reaching results. Testifying before a Congressional committee on his return from France in regard to allegations of inefficiency in supplying the American Expeditionary Forces with needed equipment, he electrified the country with a bit of choice profanity directed at the critics who lost sight of the army's real accomplishments. Every ex-doughboy in the country has been strong for General Dawes ever since.

It was that "don't give a damn whether they like it or not" trait in Dawes's character that influenced the President in picking him as Director of the Budget. For 130 years the business of the government had rambled along in hopelessly antiquated fashion. It required some one like Dawes, not afraid of treading upon the toes of Cabinet members and sensitive bureau chiefs, to make the departments "snap into it."

Defines His System in One Word: "Co-ordination"

Asked to define in one word his system of saving the government money General Dawes responded; "Co-ordination." Co-ordination, to the general's way of thinking, is nothing more than the application of common sense business principles to the running of government. But until the last year no one came to Washington with nerve enough to say so and to see that it was applied. Co-ordination was the secret of General Dawes's success in France. Before he had finished he had the services of supply of all the Allied armies co-ordinating in such a manner that the men in the line of battle were never hampered for lack of food or equipment. His task in the army was simpler in many respects than his task as a civilian. There he had the army discipline to help, and no questions were asked.

In enforcing drastic economies in government departments since last June he has been forced to resort to abuse, cajolery, threats, executive orders from the President and various other means of getting things done. His strength lay in the fact that the President stood uncompromisingly behind him, even when the aggressive general went to the mat with mighty members of the Cabinet. Now that the worst is over and it is apparent that at last the United States possesses a budget system that is fool proof, Dawes looks back at his trials of a few months ago and smiles.

"There was never any real friction," he said, in speaking of it. "It took a little time to convince some of the veterans in the government that we really meant business and that economy had come to stay, but once convinced there was co-operation of the right sort."

When the first forecast of expenditures for the fiscal year was made by heads of departments it amounted to $4,550,000,000. These figures were submitted before President Harding decided things had gone far enough and had turned Dawes loose. As a result of pressure the announcement was made in December that instead of a reduction of only $112,000,000, as first promised, the reduction, including $170,000,000 of public debt postponement would be near $576,000,000. In brief, the Director of the Budget undertook to run the machinery of government for the fiscal year 1922 on the sum of $3,974,000,000, instead of $4,550,000,000.

In saving millions of dollars General Dawes encountered at the start "pill boxes" in the way of departmental interpretations of law that for a time threatened to halt the advance of economy. The mental status of legal advisers often seemed one of enthusiastic support of the old status quo. The new order triumphed, however, and General Dawes believes that as a result the government is insured a saving of millions from this one feature.

Lack of System Was In Evidence Everywhere

Lack of system was met with everywhere. To-day that has been largely remedied, due to the application of routine business methods.

"The government saved money and can save money in the future simply by applying common sense business principles," said General Dawes. "The trouble down here in routine business matters in that there is a tendency to regard Cabinet members and bureau chiefs as persons living in the clouds and not as plain business men. That is the trouble our co-ordinators found. As a matter of fact these men are only too willing to serve as administrators of routine business and try to save money.

"This routine business reform that has been instituted cannot be made political capital. If that happens the system cannot survive. Whatever may be the political complexion of Congress or the party affiliations of a President, this impersonal business agency of the Budget Bureau must try to see that the money of the government is spent in the most economical manner. There is nothing mystifying or savoring of magic in saving this money or continuing to save it. I daresay I have been asked the question, 'How can the government save money?' many times since I came here. In every case I reply: 'Common sense. Run the business of government as you would a private concern.'"

One glaring inefficiency in the business of government that General Dawes has remedied is that of a government accounting. "I found the system in use disgraceful and archaic," said the general. "And I told the Secretary of the Treasury so. To think that the government of the United States has no balance sheet! For 130 years since its establishment the Treasury Department, acting for the government, has kept only a cash account, and publishes only a cash account.

"What comes in is called income, and what goes out is called expense. As a result of this archaic method it takes a set of experts to inform the President or Congress as to the real expenditures and the real income." The general became so annoyed at the recollection that for a moment he could not go on.

Charles G. Dawes

Lasker Found Identical Situation in Ship Board

"Lasker found the same kind of an atrocious system in the Shipping Board," he continued, "but he got out a balance sheet notwithstanding. Now we plan to start a balance sheet, and let me say right here that such a system alone will save money from the very fact that it gives an intelligent idea of what is on hand and what is being spent.

"I found in the Treasury Department alone eighteen to twenty-three separate points of purchasing activity. Let me say for that real business man, Andrew W. Mellon, that as soon as I told him of such a state of affairs he asked us for a plan of proper co-ordination. It is obvious, when you learn of such things existing, and of their cure by simple co-ordination and common sense business principles, that in the future the government is bound to save money."

Another costly and glaring instance of lack of co-ordination which General Dawes discovered in the Navy Department has been remedied. When the Coast and Geodetic Survey wanted two ships Dawes asked the Secretary of the Navy to transfer two mine sweepers for the work, and the answer came back that it couldn't be done. Under the old system that would have ended it, but he won the navy with forty-nine mine sweepers in their possession soon to go out of commission.

"I got in touch with the Assistant Secretary of the Navy," said the general, "and told him that the President would have to ask Congress for $1,000,000 to build new ships if the navy failed to authorize the transfer. It was not long before the transfer was effected. But this is another deplorable lack of co-ordination which I feel now we have remedied and which is bound to save millions to the government.

"The government can continue to save money in its expenditures by simply checking up on such details as this. It is not difficult and it is not unreasonable. I believe in the matter of motor transportation alone we can save in the future hundreds of thousands of dollars. My aid, Francis J. Kilkenny, first suggested the idea to me which led to the co-ordination of motor transport. As a result army motor trucks from army corps areas aided in the movement of Christmas mails throughout the country. In the District of Columbia alone motor transport has been co-ordinated with a saving of $100,000 a year.

"I leave here in June with the Budget Bureau and system of co-ordination firmly established. All this work of co-ordination in governmental routine is but in its infancy, in spite of the results already accomplished. The carrying out of a policy of economy and efficiency in government is all that is needed. To watch for small economies, because in a business so great their aggregate will be enormous. That is the way to save the government money; and I reiterate, the system is simplicity itself."

$576,000,000 Is Cut From the Budget by Employment of Common Sense Principles

Proposed New French Army Smaller Than That of Britain

Total Strength of 450,000 To Be Reduced to 330,000 After 1925, When Service Will Be One Year

By Stephane Lauzanne

Special Cable to The Tribune

PARIS, Feb. 25.

IF THE new military law the French Chamber of Deputies will shortly discuss is passed, what will the strength of the army of the republic be, and what will be the cost of this army?

That is the interesting question of the day. It is all the more interesting at a time when so many Americans imagine that France has a million men under arms and is spending billions on armaments. The reply is an easy one.

It is figured in the report of the army commission which the Chamber will publish in a few days, and of which I have an advance proof sheet under my eyes. With the new law every young Frenchman will be called for eighteen months' military service until 1925 and one year's service after 1925, instead of the three years' pre-war service.

Forces To Be Reduced By 120,000 After 1925

The number of effective forces the republic will dispose on national territory and the Rhine provinces will amount to exactly 450,000 men, composed of 370,000 French and eighty thousand natives, until 1925, and only 330,000 men, composed of 250,000 French and 80,000 natives, after 1925.

To these figures must be added the colonial troops, the Moroccans, the Algerians which France maintains in North Africa, Madagascar and Indo-China as police forces. These number exactly 220,000, composed of 70,000 French and 150,000 natives. Therefore the great total of all the French forces in France and in the colonial empire amounts to 670,000 men until 1925 and 550,000 men after 1925.

If you compare these figures with those of the pre-war French army you will find that following 1914 the republic had under arms in national territory 737,000 French and 220,000 men of the colonial empire. This was a total of 957,000. The reduction therefore immediately is 30 per cent of the pre-war figures, while it is 45 per cent after 1925.

Germany Is Better Off In War Seasoned Officers

If, on the other hand, you compare these figures with those of the armies of the British Empire you will find the effective forces of British troops provided in the English budget for 1922 to exceed, including India, 640,000 men. This total does not include the forces in the British dominions. The French army of 1922 therefore is inferior to the number of the actual army of the British Empire.

The troops of the German Reich, comprise the first troops of the Reichswehr, amounting to 100,000 men; the second troops of the Schutzpolizei, amounting to 100,000 men, a total of 200,000 men. The French army is, therefore, superior to the number of the German army, both in 1922 and 1925. It must not be forgotten, however, that the army of the Reich will remain essentially professional, its army officers being remarkably trained and apt for war.

The 100,000 men of the Reichswehr have, for instance, not less than 41,877 non-commissioned officers who have all been at war, whereas the army of the French Republic yearly will retain in service an army middlingly trained and insufficiently experienced.

Let us see what the French army will cost. André Maginot, the Minister of War, gave me the figures regarding the cost in the following statement:

"At present the French army stationed in French territory costs, including the constabulary, 2,000,000,000 francs on ordinary budget expenditures of more than 25,000,000,000 francs, or, according to the present rate of exchange, about $166,000,000, on budget expenditures of more than $2,000,000,000.

Cost of Regular Army To Be Reduced One-fourth

"The army of 450,000 men in 1922 can scarcely represent more than a real decrease of about $20,000,000 on the present figures, but the army of 330,000 after 1925 will permit of economy of 25 per cent, bringing the cost of the national army to about $110,000,000.

"I may add, for those who like to draw comparisons, the amount it costs to maintain the American, the English and the French soldier. Taking the moneys of the three countries at par, the result is that the American soldier costs $2,000 yearly, the English soldier $1,600 and the French soldier $450. If, instead of taking the dollar at par, we use the present rate of exchange, we find that the American soldier costs $2,000, the English soldier $1,200 and the French soldier $375."

These are the figures and those are the facts. When one speaks of a big French army, which in reality is less numerous than the small British army, it must, therefore, not be forgotten in any case that it is an economical army.

French Tax Burdens

The French taxpayers know that they will have to pay twenty-two billion and a few hundred million francs this year.

In 1870 the last budget of the empire rose to 1,500,000,000; then came the war, and in 1872 the normal budget reappeared, increased by 1,000,000,000.

From these 2,500,000,000 it progressively increased until 1914 to 5,000,000,000, the greatest part of which was devoted to the expenses necessitated by the care for national defense.

To-day the budget is more than 22,000,000,000.

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The Dean of Explorers

In the English County of Kent, near Maidstone, Sir John Kirk, undoubtedly the dean of the explorers of the world, died recently.

Sir John, after serving on the civil medical staff throughout the Crimean War, was appointed in February, 1858, physician and naturalist to David Livingstone's second expedition to central Africa. He was by Livingstone's side in most of his journeyings during the next five years, and was one of the first four white men to behold Lake Nyassa. The reputation he gained through this expedition led to his appointment in 1866 as acting surgeon to the political agency at Zanzibar, and in 1868 he was raised to the rank of consul general and agent. He retired from that post in 1887. The twenty-one years spent by Sir John in Zanzibar covered the most critical period of the history of European intervention in East Africa, and during the greater part of that time he was the virtual ruler of that country. In 1895 he was sent by the British government on a mission to the Niger.

Although very old, Sir John still went frequently to Westminster Abbey to pray at the tomb of his friend and master, Livingstone.

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Sea Scouts in Palestine

The Scout movement is making rapid progress in Palestine, and a considerable number of Boy Scouts and Girl Guides have already been enrolled. Quite recently the Sea Scouts were organized. As was to be expected, the center of the Sea Scouts is Jaffa, where they already number seventy-seven. With the assistance of a number of British officials, to whom the movement owes its inception, the Sea Scouts are receiving, in addition to the usual Boy Scout training, instruction in seamanship, sailmaking, chart work, sounding and other nautical arts.

The younger generation is thus beginning to absorb the spirit of the sea and is playing its part in laying the first foundations of a Palestinian mercantile marine.

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The Problem of a Biscuit

A woman was brought before the magistrate at West Ham charged with selling biscuits after 8 p. m. According to England's shop hours act all shops with a very few exceptions must close by 8 o'clock. Confectioner, however, has been exempted from this rule and accordingly the shopkeeper claimed that the biscuits were confectionery and therefore she had a right to sell them. The prosecution refused to allow this and added that "goods entitled to be called confectionery should contain not less than a certain percentage of sugar." The magistrate ended the discussion by dismissing the case as an absurdity.

During recent weeks there have been some curious anomalies under the act (restaurants naturally are exempt), of which the following are the most curious:

A tradesman can sell spiced beef after 8, but must not sell an uncooked egg.

A butcher may sell cooked pork chops, but not an uncooked one.

A grocer may sell paraffine oil after hours, but not salad oil.

Hot pies may be sold, but not cold ones.

Cigarettes may not be sold after 8, but if a man goes into a public house, has a glass of beer and a sandwich, he may also buy a cigarette!

Echoes from Abroad

Five Religious Centenaries

This year will see five religious centenaries:

One is that of St. Ignatius of Loyola, the founder of the Jesuits, born in the castle of Loyola in 1491, died in Rome in 1556. He was canonized in 1622.

Another is that of Sta Theresa, a Spanish nun, famous as a mystic writer and reformer of the Order of Carmelites. She was born at Civila, in Old Castile, on March 28, 1515, died in the Carmelitan convent of Albe on September 29, 1582, and was canonized by Gregory XV in 1622. No fewer than sixteen convents and fourteen monasteries were founded by her.

A third is that of St. Philippe de Neri, who founded the Church of the Congregation of the Oratory in Rome. He was professor in Rome, but after a few years sold all his books to devote himself to the service of the sick and poor. Born in Florence in 1515, died in Rome in 1595 and canonized by Gregory XV in 1622. His feast is May 26.

The fourth is that of St. Isidore, an archbishop of Seville and one of the most distinguished ecclesiastics of the seventh century. He was born about 560 at Cartagena, died at Seville in 636, and in 1722 was made by Benedict XIV one of the doctors of the church. Isidore was the most learned man of his time, and his works are in the most various departments of knowledge — theological, ascetical, liturgical, scriptural, historical, philosophical and scientific. His feast is June 4.

Finally, there is the centenary of Francis de Sales, a distinguished saint and writer of the Catholic Church, born at the Chateau de Sales in the diocese of Geneva, died at Lyons on September 28, 1622, was canonized by Pope Alexander VII in 1665, and in 1877 declared one of the doctors of the church. His "Introduction to the Devoted Life" has been translated in almost every language of Europe and has been more widely read than any other work on devotion, with the exception of the "Imitation of Christ." His "Treatise on the Love of God" is the chief doctrinal work and shows more fully the comprehensive character of his mind. These two books assure him a distinguished place not only in the history of devotion but also in that of French literature.

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A Test for Dr. Einstein

The next solar eclipse will occur on September 27 in the southern hemisphere, and most countries will send missions to study the phenomenon, which, according to M. Lucien Chassaigne, writing in "Le Journal," will assume particular importance this year. It is hoped to make measurements and experiments that will perhaps definitely determine the value of the famous Einstein theories. And then the whole system of the universe is at stake, the whole conception of modern mechanics may become questionable.

Einstein affirms, contrary to the generally accepted thesis, that there is no ether—that is to say, no material medium to transmit light rays, and that neither space nor time has an absolute value. He arrives at these conclusions only with the aid of long and complicated calculations which mathematicians alone are able to contest or admit. And controversy has not been wanting.

But Dr. Einstein, after five years of battles in the domain of theory, in 1915, wanted to give experimental proof of the solidity of his ideas, however revolutionary they might appear. "If luminous energy emitted by a star has weight," he said, "it must be deviated, attracted when passing in the field of gravitation (i. e., near the sun.)"

Demonstration of this, unfortunately, is not at the constant command of men. True, there was in August, 1915, an eclipse visible on the coasts of Africa and of Spain, but there was also the war, which turned away the initiative. Einstein had designated a few stars which, according to him, would find themselves on the photographic plates at angular distances from the verge of the sun, other than Newton's law permitted to foresee, and he had indicated the differences that ought to be verified. The Royal Society, despite the unfavorable circumstances, sent an astronomer to Sfax, a seaport town of Tunis, on the Gulf of Gabes. His implements were, however, not sufficient, the atmosphere was foggy—in short, the plates obtained did not permit a sufficient verification.

Dr. Einstein has so far not yet finally decided whether he will accept the invitation of the Hollandish government to take part in an expedition for the observation of the solar eclipse, going to the Christmas Islands, in the Indian Ocean.

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New York's Good Taste

George Wybo, the well known French architect, on returning from America has published in "l'Intransigeant" his impressions of architecture in this country.

"An examination of the thirty or forty story high office buildings raised within recent years," he says, "buildings of an impeccable though rapid execution, well proportioned, with harmonious lines, with sober decorations, made of splendid and well-worked materials, causes us to modify a too generally accepted opinion, and to recognize a new art, in the true sense of the word, an art calculated to make us receive strong impressions, such as we receive from the power and grandeur of our cathedrals and other monuments of the past.

"In lower Broadway and near the City Hall," he says, speaking of New York, "rising to a height of over 200 metres, are the most formidable business temples, such as the Woolworth, Equitable, Adams, Cunard, Bankers Trust, and Liberty Tower buildings. These, different among themselves, but each in its own genre, by their construction, their form, their lines of architecture and their disposition, are indisputably masterpieces.

"The public institutions, such as the new Municipal Building, the Hudson River docks, the Custom House, the new Public Library, Penns lvania Station, the Grand Central Terminal and the hotels Commodore, Biltmore, Vanderbilt, Belmont and Pennsylvania, are also not only by their aspect, their beautiful proportions and their execution, but also by their arrangement, their utility and their perfect order, beautiful monuments which do honor to the city possessing them and to the architects who built them.

"The new churches, the most remarkable of which is that of St. Thomas; the beautiful dwelling houses, the clubs, the banks, the stores of luxury on Fifth Avenue, displaying the choicest materials, marble, precious woods and stones and the finest chiseled bronze, are worthy of the elegant customers who visit them; for one must recognize the delicate taste shown by New York women, both in their toilet and in the appointments of their homes."

Upon this the editor of "l'Intransigeant" remarks that the good taste of Americans cannot cause surprise, because they appreciate the masterpieces of French art.

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The Telephone a French Invention?

There are now multitudes, who at a distance of thousands of kilometers, listen to concerts which, under the direction of Commandant Lorrain, the Eiffel Tower emits daily for four and a half to five hours.

This is the hour of tea. And music, which, it is said, makes manners more gentle, also facilitates digestion.

While awaiting the time, when radiotelephony will be in general use, it is timely, says "Le Petit Journal," to throw a retrospective look at the invention of the telephone.

It was sixty-eight years ago. A certain Charles Bourseul, a modest functionary employed in the Bourse, conceived an apparatus, based on the principle of the transmission of the voice by an electrical conductor. He submitted his invention to several chiefs of his service. They advised him to do nothing with it.

Disappointed, rebuffed, but headstrong, Bourseul, nevertheless, in 1854, published in "l'Illustration" a strongly documented article on his discovery.

Twenty-eight years later, in 1882, Graham Bell and Edison, the reinventors of the telephone, frankly rendered homage to the French precursor.

Bourseul then lived on a small pension in a small market town, where he had gone to cultivate a garden. The French government, enlightened by the American revelation, discovered the unappreciated inventor and granted him, together with the red ribbon, a pension of 2,000 francs.

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Old Coins at Canterbury

A precious discovery has been made in the ruins of the venerable St. Augustine Abbey of Canterbury—of ancient coins of the greatest historical interest.

The oldest of these coins is one of Emperor Gallienus (A. D. 233-268). The second is a silver denier of Foulques V of Jerusalem, who ruled in 1142. The third, a copper coin, bears a partly effaced inscription of which only remain ——NAND D. G. A. R. It is believed to be a Liège coin struck by Ferdinand, who was Archbishop of Cologne and Elector of Bavaria from 1612 to 1650.

The last of these coins is a small silver piece bearing the inscription REX m-/-COENVVLF. It would, therefore, belong to the reign of Kenwulf, King of Mercia, which recalls a most turbulent period of the history of the Catholic Church of Great Britain. The Abbey of Canterbury was compelled to give up part of its domains to Higbert, who was installed as Archbishop of Litchfield. This event is said to have occurred in the year 727, and not until 802 Pope Stephen V divested the See of Litchfield of its usurper title and restored the patrimony of the Abbey of Canterbury. Thus came to an end the short existence of what has been called the "Metropolitan See of Litchfield."

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The Country Where They Do Not Die

In truth, they do die there, but not until they are very old. The country is Madagascar, or, more exactly, Antanarivo, the capital, situated in the middle of the island, on a rock crowning a small plain belonging to the plateau of Imerina. According to Dr. Estrade, the colonial physician—and there is no reason for not believing him—the birth rate at Antanarivo is extremely high and the mortality is surprisingly low.

These Malagasays are a happy people. "But could we not," asks "Figaro," "get from them their two beautiful secrets: That of the numerous births and that of longevity? They would render us greater services than all the laws on depopulation and the bounties and other encouragements which the state gives to the parents of large families."

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Germany Seeking Revenge

"L'Action Nationale" publishes a letter from Mayence in which its correspondent says:

"All the German will is strained toward the most rapid preparation for the war of revenge. It is sufficient to observe seriously and attentively the industry of the Reich.

"In seven months of this year thirteen factories of Westphalia, West Prussia and Bavaria have produced 2,745 agricultural tractors of the small German type of 1918. These tractors, which are too heavy for agricultural purposes, are intended for war, for in twenty minutes they can be transformed into tanks. Protecting plates and screens are constructed and are always in proximity to the place where the pacific 'tractor' draws the agricultural machine."